

AGN. NO. \_\_\_\_\_

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

MARCH 8, 2005

For many years the Metropolitan Water District (MWD) leased land near Alderbrook Drive in the Newhall area of Santa Clarita to Hank Arklin. In order to buffer his use of the property from adjoining residences, about fifteen years ago Mr.. Arklin planted a row of California Pepper Trees. The trees have grown quite tall and create an attractive aesthetic feature adjacent to homes

Mr. Arklin's lease is expiring in the near future, and MWD representatives have requested that Mr. Arklin return the property to its original condition. Conversations between MWD and Arklin have contemplated the removal of the Pepper Trees. Nearby residents would like for the trees to be preserved.

There are several parties involved in the debate concerning the Pepper Trees. The MWD's mission is to deliver water to Southern California, and the Pepper Trees may have an impact on its current and future operations. Whereas MWD's facilities are located underground, a developer is asserting surface rights to the property. Residents are concerned about maintaining an aesthetically attractive row of trees that will remain as a buffer from future uses on the property. Given the expressed willingness of all parties to resolve the issue in a positive manner, It would appear that these interests can be resolved fairly.

- M O R E -

MOTION

BURKE	_____
YAROSLAVSKY	_____
KNABE	_____
ANTONOVICH	_____
MOLINA	_____

Page: 2

MWD representatives have responded positively to inquiries from my office, Mr. Arklin, local residents, and the City of Santa Clarita. In particular I commend Mr. Gilbert Ivey, the Interim Chief Executive Officer of MWD, for his willingness to engage in a constructive discussion concerning this issue. While the initial discussions have been encouraging, it is nevertheless important that the Board of Supervisors affirm its commitment to preservation of the Pepper Trees.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors send a letter to the Metropolitan Water District encouraging continued dialogue with interested parties to preserve the Pepper Trees on the MWD property in Santa Clarita.

# # #

MDA:pno  
MWD/Peppertrees